In the claims:

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1. (currently amended) An article comprising a wet stick pressure sensitive adhesive and a thermoplastic packaging material enveloping said wet stick pressure sensitive adhesive, wherein said [[A]] wet stick pressure sensitive adhesive ~~comprising~~ comprises the polymerization product of:

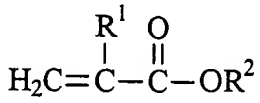
(a) about 30 to about 70 parts by weight of an (meth)acrylate ester monomer wherein the (meth)acrylate ester monomer, when homopolymerized, has a Tg of less than about 10°C;

(b) about 70 to about 30 parts by weight of a hydrophilic acidic comonomer; and

(c) about 10 to 100 parts based on 100 parts (a) + (b) of a non-reactive plasticizing agent,

wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive adheres to wet substrate surfaces.

2. (original) The wet stick pressure sensitive adhesive according to claim 1 wherein the (meth)acrylate ester monomers has the following general formula:



wherein R^1 is H or CH_3, the latter corresponding to where the (meth)acrylate monomer is a methacrylate monomer and R^2 is linear or branched hydrocarbon groups and may contain one or more heteroatoms and the number of carbon atoms in the hydrocarbon group is about 4 to about 12.

3. (original) The wet stick pressure sensitive adhesive according to claim 2 wherein the (meth)acrylate ester monomer is n-butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, isooctyl acrylate, lauryl acrylate, or mixture thereof.

4. (original) The wet stick pressure sensitive adhesive according to claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic acidic monomer is ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, ethylenically unsaturated sulfonic acids, ethylenically unsaturated phosphonic acids, or mixtures thereof.

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5. (original) The wet stick pressure sensitive adhesive according to claim 4 wherein the hydrophilic acidic monomer is an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid.

6. (original) The wet stick pressure sensitive adhesive according to claim 1 wherein the plasticizing agent is selected from the group consisting of polyalkylene oxides, alkyl or aryl functionalized polyalkylene oxides, benzoyl functionalized polyethers, monomethyl ethers of polyethylene oxides and mixtures thereof.

7. (CANCEL)

8. (original) A method for preparing a wet stick pressure sensitive adhesive comprising the steps of:

(a) combining a solventless polymerizable mixture comprising:

(i) about 30 to about 70 parts by weight of an (meth)acrylate ester wherein the (meth)acrylate ester, when homopolymerized, has a Tg of less than about 10°C;

(ii) about 70 to about 30 parts by weight of a hydrophilic acidic comonomer; and

(iii) about 10 to 100 parts based on 100 parts of the sum of components (a) + (b) of a non-volatile, non-reactive plasticizing agent;

(b) polymerizing the solventless polymerizable mixture to form the pressure sensitive adhesive that adheres to wet substrate surfaces.

9. (currently amended) A method for preparing a wet stick pressure sensitive adhesive comprising the steps of:

(a) combining a solventless polymerizable mixture comprising:

(i) about 30 to about 70 parts by weight of an (meth)acrylate ester wherein the (meth)acrylate ester, when homopolymerized, has a Tg of less than about 10°C;

(ii) about 70 to about 30 parts by weight of a hydrophilic acidic comonomer; and

A1 cont.

(iii) about 10 to 100 parts based on 100 parts of the sum of components (a) + (b) of a non volatile, non-reactive plasticizing agent;

(b) enveloping the polymerizable mixture in a thermoplastic packaging material;

(c) exposing the enveloped polymerizable mixture to sufficient radiation to polymerize the polymerizable mixture and to form the pressure sensitive adhesive that adheres to wet substrate surfaces.

10. (currently amended) A method for preparing a wet stick pressure sensitive adhesive comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a prepolymeric syrup comprising:

(i) about 30 to about 70 parts by weight of an (meth)acrylate ester wherein the (meth)acrylate ester, when homopolymerized, has a Tg of less than about 10°C; and

(ii) about 70 to about 30 parts by weight of a hydrophilic acidic comonomer;

(b) combining the prepolymeric syrup with about 10 to 100 parts based on 100 parts of the sum of components (i) + (ii) of a non-reactive plasticizing agent to form a ~~mixture/blend~~ polymerizable mixture;

(c) enveloping the polymerizable mixture in a thermoplastic packaging material;

(d) exposing the enveloped polymerizable mixture to sufficient radiation to polymerize the polymerizable mixture and to form the pressure sensitive adhesive that adheres to wet substrate surfaces.

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11. (new) The article of claim 1, wherein the packaging material is selected from ethylene-vinyl acetate, ethylene-acrylic acid, polypropylene, polyethylene, polybutadiene, or ionomeric materials.

12. (new) The article of claim 1, wherein the packaging material is selected from ethylene-vinyl acetate or ethylene-acrylic acid.

13. (new) An article comprising:

a substrate; and

A2 cont.

a hot melt adhesive applied to a surface of said substrate, said hot melt adhesive comprising a mixture of a pressure sensitive adhesive and a thermoplastic material having a melt temperature of 200 °C or less, said pressure sensitive adhesive comprising

(a) about 30 to about 70 parts by weight of an (meth)acrylate ester monomer wherein the (meth)acrylate ester monomer, when homopolymerized, has a Tg of less than about 10°C;

(b) about 70 to about 30 parts by weight of a hydrophilic acidic comonomer; and

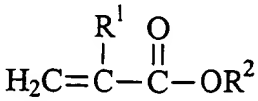
(c) about 10 to 100 parts based on 100 parts (a) + (b) of a non-reactive plasticizing agent.

14. (new) The article of claim 13, wherein the thermoplastic material is selected from ethylene-vinyl acetate, ethylene-acrylic acid, polypropylene, polyethylene, polybutadiene, or ionomeric materials.

15. (new) The article of claim 13, wherein the thermoplastic material is selected from ethylene-vinyl acetate or ethylene-acrylic acid.

16. (new) The article of claim 13, wherein the mixture further comprises a crosslinking agent.

17. (new) The article of claim 13, wherein the (meth)acrylate ester monomers has the following general formula:



wherein R^1 is H or CH_3, the latter corresponding to where the (meth)acrylate monomer is a methacrylate monomer and R^2 is linear or branched hydrocarbon groups and may contain one or more heteroatoms and the number of carbon atoms in the hydrocarbon group is about 4 to about 12.

A2 cont.

18. (new) The article of claim 13, wherein the hydrophilic acidic monomer is ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, ethylenically unsaturated sulfonic acids, ethylenically unsaturated phosphonic acids, or mixtures thereof.

19. (new) The article of claim 13, wherein the plasticizing agent is selected from the group consisting of polyalkylene oxides, alkyl or aryl functionalized polyalkylene oxides, benzoyl functionalized polyethers, monomethyl ethers of polyethylene oxides and mixtures thereof.

20. (new) The article of claim 13, further comprising a wet surface, wherein the adhesive is positioned between the substrate and the wet surface and wherein the adhesive adheres to the wet surface.

21. (new) The article of claim 1, further comprising a wet surface, wherein the adhesive is positioned between the substrate and the wet surface and wherein the adhesive adheres to the wet surface.

22. (new) The method of claim 8, further comprising adhering the pressure sensitive adhesive to a wet surface.

23. (new) The method of claim 9, further comprising adhering the pressure sensitive adhesive to a wet surface.

24. (new) The method of claim 10, further comprising adhering the pressure sensitive adhesive to a wet surface.